

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FUKUOK 00024 040102Z

72

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /050 W

----- 002367

P R 280100Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA JA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO JA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA ROUTINE

FLEACT SASEBO JA ROUTINE

AMCONGEN OSAKA

AMCONSUL SAPPORO JA ROUTINE

AMCONGEN NAHA JA

STATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L FUKUOKA 00024

E.O. 11652: GDS APPLIES

TAGS: MILI: PINT; JA

SUBJ: PORT CALLS BY U.S. NAVY SHIPS

SUMMARY: WE WERE RECENTLY CONTACTED BY COMNAVFOR, JAPAN, CONCERNING

FEASIBILITY OF PORT VISIT IN KAGOSHIMA BY U.S. SHIP, A VISIT WHICH

HAD BEEN SCHEDULED, AND THEN CANCELLED, IN BEPPU. WHILE WE HAVE

DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH LCDR LEE AND PABST AT EMBASSY, WE FEEL IT

MIGHT BE USEFUL TO GET OUR THOUGHTS ON THE RECORD. THESE ARE:

THE CONSULATE HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH VARIOUS CITIES AND PREFECTURES

IN OUR CONSULAR DISTRICT (ALL KYUSHU AND YAMAGUCHI PREFECTURE ON

HONSHU) WHICH GOES BACK TO THE END OF THE OCCUPATION; WE FEEL THIS

RELATIONSHIP ENABLES US TO OFFER ADVICE ON PORT VISITS WHERE THERE

MAY BE A POTENTIAL PROBLEM THAT WOULD BE OF USE TO THE NAVY; WE

ARE GLAD TO OFFER THIS ADVICE AND DO WHATEVER MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO

PAGE THREE RUADLTA7984 C O N F I D E N T I A L SVC

THE EMBASSY AND COMNAVFOR JAPAN IN THIS AREA. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FUKUOK 00024 040102Z

BACKGROUND: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THREE PROPOSED PORT VISITS BY U.S.

NAVY SHIPS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED IN THE RECENT PAST AT THE REQUEST OF THE MAYORS INVOLVED, AND WERE TOLD FURTHER THAT ONE OF THESE WAS BEPPU, IN OITA PREFECTURE. THIS SEEMS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT GIVEN THE TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE OF THE MAYOR VIS-A-VIS PORT VISITS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LAST TIME I SPOKE TO MAYOR ARAKANE HE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LACK OF SUCH VISITS AND ASKED THAT I TRY TO GET THE NAVY TO INCREASE THEM. ARAKANE IS A CONSERVATIVE, LIKES THE UNITED STATES, SUPPORTS THE SECURITY TREATY, AND WANTS TO BRING IN AS MANY PEOPLE AND AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE TO BEPPU, ONE OF THE LEADING RESORT CITIES IN JAPAN. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NAVY WAS ILLUSTRATED BY HIS MAKING A TRAIN RIDE OF SEVERAL HOURS DURATION TO ATTEND A RECEPTION FOR ADMIRAL AND MRS. HOLLOWAY, AT WHICH TIME HE MADE A SIMILAR PITCH TO THE ADMIRAL. ARAKANE, LIKE MOST GOVERNORS AND MAYORS, IS FACING AN ELECTION APRIL 13, AND THERE SEEMS NO DOUBT HIS REQUEST THAT THE PORT VISIT BE DELAYED IS CONNECTED WITH THE ELECTION. THE MAYORALITY ELECTION IN BEPPU IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX, AND QUITE CLOSE. THE FACT THAT MAYOR ARAKANE HAS ASKED THAT THE PORT CALL

PAGE FOUR RUADLTA7984 C O N F I D E N T I A L

BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION, WHEN WE WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT THAT HE WOULD POINT WITH PRIDE TO THE FACT THAT HE HAD BROUGHT IN A U.S. NAVY SHIP, ALSO INDICATES THE EFFECT OF RECENT ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO JAPANESE PORTS; HOWEVER, THESE ISSUES ARE NOT THE SUBJECT OF THIS TELEGRAM AND ARE MENTIONED ONLY AS ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SITUATION THE NAVY FACES IN PORT CALLS.

AT LCDR LEE'S REQUEST WE CONTACTED THE KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT TO SOUND OUT THEIR ATTITUDE ON A PORT CALL BY A USN SHIP. WE WERE TOLD BY THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL THAT KAGOSHIMA HAS NEVER REFUSED A PORT CALL AND IS NOT GOING TO START NOW. THEREFORE, WE FEEL THAT CHANCES ARE GOOD THE VISIT CAN GO AHEAD WITH NO TROUBLE, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED.

HOWEVER, THIS TOO RAISES SOME INTERESTING PROBLEMS. THE GOVERNOR OF KAGOSHIMA IS A CONSERVATIVE, AND REGARDED AS A SHOO-IN FOR RE-ELECTION; HOWEVER, KAGOSHIMA MAYOR TOSHI SUEYOSHI WAS FIRST ELECTED IN 1967 ON A COMBINED REFORMIST TICKET. THIS YEAR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 FUKUOK 00024 040102Z

SUEYOSHI IS SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIALISTS AND KOMEITO (ALTHOUGH NOT THE JCP) AND LOOKS FAIRLY STRONG. HOWEVER, KAGOSHIMA IS SURELY ONE OF THE MOST CONSERVATIVE PREFECTURES (AND CITIES) IN JAPAN,

PAGE FIVE RUADLTA7984 C O N F I D E N T I A L SVC
AND SUEYOSHI'S ELECTION IS FAR FROM CERTAIN.

THIS RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHAT EFFECT PORT CALLS HAVE ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE, ESPECIALLY JUST BEFORE AN ELECTION. WHILE WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT SUCH WILL BE THE CASE, IT IS AT LEAST CONCEIVABLE THAT MAYOR SUEYOSHI COULD POINT TO KAGOSHIMA HARBOR AND SAY THAT THE NAVY SHIP (WHICH IS AN LST) IS LOADED TO THE GILLS WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE EFFECT OF THAT TYPE OF STATEMENT IS HARD TO ASSESS, BUT THERE WOULD DOUBTLESS BE ONE. FURTHER, IF THE MERE PRESENCE OF A NAVY SHIP IS A FACTOR, EITHER AS A PLUS OR A MINUS, IN THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE, HOW DO WE HANDLE THIS POINT?

AS WE POINTED OUT EARLIER, SUCH QUESTIONS SEEM SIGNIFICANT. WE KNOW THAT THE EMBASSY AND COMNAVFOR, JAPAN, ARE INTERESTED IN THE QUESTION OF PORT CALLS, AND WE OFFER OUR COMMENTS FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH. AMCONSULATE, FUKUOKA, AGAIN EMPHASIZES ITS WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ANY SORT OF ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD BE OF USE TO EITHER THE EMBASSY OR THE NAVY IN CONSIDERING PORT CALLS.

RICHARDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL SHIPS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FUKUOK00024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750074-0550
From: FUKUOKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975024/aaaaacva.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORT CALLS BY U.S. NAVY SHIPS SUMMARY: WE WERE RECENTLY CONTACTED BY COMNAVFOR, JAPAN, CONCERNING
TAGS: MILI, PINT, JA, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006